



HAMILTON COUNTY
LOCAL ALLIANCE FOR NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT (LAND)

Committee on Green Building

Meeting Summary

October 17, 2006, 1:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.
Room 807, County Administration Building

Attendance at the Meeting:

- Joanne Gerson, City of Montgomery Planning Commission
- David Quilligan, TREMCO
- Chad Edwards, KZF Design
- Holly Christmann, Hamilton County Solid Waste District, USGBC
- Mike Huseman, HGC Construction
- Virginia Russell, UC/SAID
- Dean E. Niemeyer, HCRPC

Joanne opened the meeting and Dean introduced Mike Huseman of HGC Construction. Dean stated he had seen Mike at the Civic Garden Center's lecture/reception by Astrid Haryati on The New Urban Greening: Chicago's Story in early September and had invited him to attend our Committee. Joanne asked that committee review and comment on the draft Meeting Summary from the September meeting. Dean stated he had a couple of questions on the third page.

Jennie advised that "Stegaman" was spelled Stegeman. She said Mary was Ron Kull's wife but she was not sure what department she worked for at U.C. Holly said the "Center for Sustainability" was accurate and should be kept in the summary. Joanne asked for approval of the summary with corrections, Holly so moved and ??? seconded and the summary was approved.

Dean distributed copies of the article 'The "Greening" of Hamilton County From "Why" to "How"' for the Planning Partnership on-line/e-mail newsletter. He stated this had gone through numerous iterations and this was the final draft. This would be the first time the newspaper would be published on-line as a paperless newsletter.

Dean then distributed copies of the letter to Christopher Manning in support of the Center for Sustainable Cities. Jennie stated she had not seen the letter and voiced her concern with the proposed site for the Center. She stated that the selected site would necessitate the displacement of homeowners and/or renters from the residential properties. Dean stated his intent of the letter was the general support of the idea for a Center for Sustainable Cities.

Dean next distributed the internet link to the LAND-HC Committee on Green Building draft WEB page. He requested that the members go the WEB page and review and comment on their concerns, questions, additions, etc. so that WEB page could be revised and then launched at earliest point in the near future. **He also said he would e-mail everybody the link in next day or so.**

Joanne informed the Committee she was going to have to leave the meeting early and she wanted to discuss Agenda Item c., under "Other Updates, News". Joanne stated she had recommended to the Planning Partnership Executive Committee on

September 25th (Chris Bortz, Richard Finan, and Gwen McFarlin) that at the annual meeting (March 2007) a program be presented on Global Warming/Climate Control and the recommendation that First Suburb Mayors sign the Mayors' Climate Control Agreement. Joanne informed the Committee that both elected leaders and planning commission members attended the annual meetings, and therefore, it was an excellent venue for introducing these ideas.

At the Executive Committee Meeting, Joanne had given Bortz and Tarbell her copies of the DVD on "Dimming the Sun". She also stated that Bortz and Tarbell were very receptive of her recommendation. Bortz proposed that Mayor Mallory do a speech about his motivations for signing the Mayors' Climate Control Agreement and asked that Tarbell speak with the Mayor about doing this.

Joanne also stated that she proposed a panel discussion be developed to include appropriate environmental representatives. She proposed that we create an ad-hoc committee to plan this presentation for the Planning Partnership Annual Meeting.

Jennie stated she would be willing to serve on this committee. Joanne questioned where we should hold the Annual Meeting and Holly suggested the new Green Building at the Cincinnati Zoo. Holly also stated that we should approach Duke Energy as a sponsor and that their renewable energy guy could be a good resource.

The discussion then turned to the Woman's City Club Green Building Projects and Dean distributed a schedule for their Monthly Educational Series—Growing Green and Healthy Schools 2006-2007. Holly stated that the Cincinnati Public Schools push for Green Schools was a grass roots effort beginning with Pleasant Ridge and also Northside concerned residents. Phil stated he had asked the Madeira School Superintendent about whether they were pursuing LEED Certification for a new school and Phil was told that he would have to ask the architect.

Joanne inquired about whether we should ask a representative of the Woman's City Club to come and speak to us about their green programs. Dean stated, at the least, we should include information about their programs on our WEB page. Someone?? asked are we keeping a list of all the area green projects? **Joanne asked that Chad and Holly work on developing a complete list of all the green building projects/programs in the area and present a draft for our next meeting in November.**

Dean continued with the Agenda item about strategizing for the OTR Affordable, green development project. Jennie informed the Committee that early on she had approached the Over-the-Rhine Housing Network about partnering for the project. She talked with Mary Burke who was O.K. with having their buildings included, but wanted the students to have no contact with their residents. The residents paid their own utilities bills. Burke didn't want the residents to anticipate that building improvements could be made that would reduce their monthly utility, if the OTR Housing Network couldn't afford to do the changes.

Jennie also stated that the Niehoff Studio was moving up to Short Vine and was changing the focus for its work from Over-the-Rhine to the main campus of U.C. and its surrounding neighborhoods (or Uptown). Jennie offered that she could continue doing studios for OTR, but Niehoff would not be able to do that. She also said that the students from the summer studio would be back in January and could do presentations of their work to the OTR Chamber of Commerce and the Planning Partnership Annual Meeting. **Dean said he would do a draft revision of the Strategic Plan for the OTR Green Demonstration Project for review at the November meeting.**

Dean then distributed a letter from Christine Robertson, Sierra Club that addressed comments from her review of the September Meeting Summary. Dean stated that Christine was unable to attend this meeting but wanted to offer comments on certain issues. Dean suggested that we request that Christine become a member of the Committee and got a consensus agreement from the Committee.

Dean stated that he would be attending Green Community Design Workshop on Thursday presented by the Rocky Mountain Institute and sponsored by the Hamilton County Park District, Hamilton County Environmental Services and ODOT. Holly stated she would be attending in the morning and that they had gotten confirmation of 70 participants for the workshop. Dean stated he hoped this would be more informative than the Conservation Development Workshop he attended a couple weeks before. He said he came to the conclusion that conservation or clustered subdivisions were actually the final, high-end phase of suburban development and actually were not that important. They don't address revitalization of urban areas but are built on new greenfields, albeit with 40%+ greenspace.

Chad questioned that all our emphasis has been on center city development but what about for the rest of the county, again with the goals of retaining population and jobs. Holly seconded that and said she had been asked that before and she didn't have an answer. Jennie said that we had proposed adoption by local communities of Green Building regulations/principals in our original mission and goals from a year ago. **Dean stated that the committee will revisit in November the original Strategic Plan and Action Plans and assess what has been accomplished and what needs revision.**

Dean said he had received an e-mail from Alan Warner about bringing in Doug Farr to town to speak on LEED and Green Building. This was prompted from the link Dean sent to the Committee on the GRIST post for "LEED is expanding to neighborhoods, and Doug Farr is leading the way" <http://www.grist.org/news/maindish/2006/10/12/shaw/>.

Dean said he responded back to Alan that bringing in Doug Farr would be a great idea and Farr could speak about how LEED-Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) could apply to The Banks <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=148>. Alan e-mailed back that he was meeting next week with Jeff Aluotto about green building permitting and he would talk to Jeff about bringing in Farr.

Dean said Farr could also address how LEED-ND could apply to existing communities within Hamilton County. Dean advised the Committee that he had applied on-line at the USGBC WEB site to be a member of the LEED-ND Corresponding Committee, since members "will have the first opportunity to respond to the call for pilot LEED-ND projects".

Holly informed the Committee that her department had applied for a grant from the Ohio EPA for presenting education programs on Green Building. She said she had "stole" David's idea about having CEOs speak on their embrace of Green Building and Sustainability. After some further discussion, Dean advised the Committee the next meeting would be on Tuesday November 21st at 1:00 p.m. and the meeting was adjourned.